

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-22 remain in the present application, with claim 2 being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Objections of the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive. Accordingly, by the present Amendment, a new title has been provided. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 9 because of a minor informality regarding the exclusion of a space between two (2) words in the claim. Accordingly, this minor informality has been corrected, noting that correction does not affect the scope of the claim and is not a narrowing amendment which was made for any reason related to patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-11 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, by the present Amendment, claim 6 has been amended in a non-narrowing way, to ensure proper antecedent basis throughout the claim and to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 5, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishii et al. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with this rejection, this rejection has been rendered moot by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claim 2 into independent claim 1 of the present application. Accordingly, claim 1 has been rendered allowable over the prior art by such an amendment. Thus, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 6 in connection with the present application. As independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2; and as independent claim 6 has been amended to alleviate the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, each of independent claims 1 and 6 are now clearly allowable over the prior art of record. Further, as each of the remaining claims is dependent upon one of these allowable claims, either directly or indirectly, each of claims 1 and 3-22 in connection with the present application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1 and 3-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

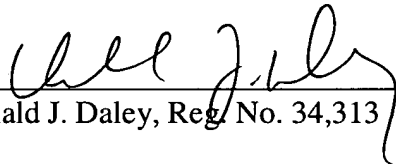
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$110.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By 
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

DJD/bof

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000